

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 02991 102234Z

70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /054 W

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O 102220Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 606

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 2991

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, HO (CYPHER, MICHAEL J.)

SUBJECT: W/W MICHAEL J. CYPHER, AKA PADRE CASIMIRO

REF: STATE 162389

1. DCM WAS RECEIVED BY ACTING FONMIN AND LIC. JIMENEZ (FOREIGN OFFICE ADVISER) AT 3:00 P.M. JULY 10. ORAL DEMARCHE CONCERNING FATE OF AMCIT FATHER CYPHER MADE PER INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL.

2. DCM WAS ASSURED GOH FULLY SHARES PREOCCUPATION OVER FATE OF FATHER CYPHER AND IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO CLARIFY CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HIS DISAPPEARANCE. CHURCH-STATE COMMISSION APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT WAS NOT ABLE TO OBTAIN FULL INFORMATION ON WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN OLANCHO LARGELY BECAUSE WITNESSES WERE TOO TERRIFIED TO TESTIFY AND ITS INVESTIGATIVE POWERS WERE INSUFFICIENT TO OBTAIN NEEDED FACTS. GOH THEREFORE HAS SENT NEW COMMISSION COMPOSED OF HIGH RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS TO MAKE COMPLETE INVESTIGATION. FOREIGN OFFICE EXPECTS INTERIM REPORT OF FIRST COMMISSION TO BE MADE PUBLIC WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS AND HAS PROMISED COPY TO EMBASSY, AS WELL AS COPY OF SECOND COMMISSION REPORT WHEN IT RETURNS. ACTING FONMIN CONFIRMED THAT IN MEANTIME MAJOR CHINCHILLA, SEVERAL SOLDIERS, MEL ZELAYA AND ANOTHER LANDLORD, ALL BELIEVED IMPLICATED AS A RESULT OF FIRST INVESTIGATION, ARE UNDER ARREST.

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HE ASSURED DCM THAT, AS CHIEF OF STATE HAS ALREADY STATED

(TEGUCIGALPA 2970), GOH WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLINGS IN OLANCHO, NO MATTER WHO MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. HOLY SEE AND COLOMBIA (FATHER BETANCOURT) HAVE MADE SIMILAR DEMARCHES.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES FURTHER ACTION SHOULD AWAIT OUTCOME OF SECOND COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATION. NAMING OF COMMISSION AND ARRESTS ALREADY MADE INDICATE GOH REALIZES SERIOUSNESS OF MATTER AND ANXIOUS TO CLARIFY MATTER AS SOON AS IT HAS THE FACTS. SANCHEZ

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